

SYNONYMY OF *PENTACANTHOIDES* METCALF WITH  
*SINOPHORA* MELICHAR (HOMOPTERA: APHROPHORIDAE),  
WITH A DISCUSSION ON THE TRIBAL  
PLACEMENT OF THE GENUS

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*Abstract.*—The monotypic genus *Pentacanthoides* Metcalf, 1952, is synonymized with the genus *Sinophora* Melichar, 1902. A diagnosis is given for the genus. One new combination, *S. brunnea* (Lallemand), is established. Evidence is given to support the placement of *Sinophora* in the tribe Aphrophorini.

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Lallemand (1922) erected the genus *Pentacantha* for a single new species, *P. brunnea*, on the basis of a single female specimen collected by H. Fruhstorfer in Darjeeling, India. The species is still known only from the unique female holotype. In 1952, Metcalf proposed the replacement name *Pentacanthoides* for *Pentacantha* Lallemand, 1922, nec *Pentacantha* Stål, 1871, Öfv. Svenska Vet.-Akad. Förh. 28: 400, and established the new combination *Pentacanthoides brunnea* (Lallemand). Since then, neither the genus nor the species has been mentioned in the literature, except in the catalogue of world Aphrophoridae of Metcalf (1962).

I have recently examined Lallemand's holotype. A direct comparison of the female holotype of *P. brunnea* (Lallemand) with material of *Sinophora* species, clearly revealed the synonymy of the two genera.

GENUS *SINOPHORA* MELICHAR

*Sinophora* Melichar, 1902:113. Type-species: *S. maculosa* Melichar, 1902, by original designation.

*Pentacantha* Lallemand, 1922:64. Type-species: *P. brunnea* Lallemand, 1922, by original designation and monotypy.

*Pentacanthoides* Metcalf, 1952:228; 1962:73. Nom. nov. pro *Pentacantha* Lallemand [1922] [nec *Pentacantha* Stål 1871]. NEW SYNONYMY.

*Remarks.* *Sinophora* species can be recognized most easily by their hind tibiae which are armed with 3-6 lateral spurs and the structures of the male genitalia, especially the very small subgenital plates, the very large styles and the very complex aedeagus. Although *Sinophora* is readily distinguishable from all other spittlebug genera, the differentiation of the species is considerably more difficult. As in most spittlebugs it is dependent upon the characters of the male genitalia.

Metcalf (1952) placed *Pentacanthoides*, for the first time, in the tribe Ptyelini; later in 1962 he treated the genus as a member of the tribe Philaenini. Examination of specimens clearly assignable to the genus indicates closer affinities to the Aphro-

phorini. I am here moving the *Sinophora* from the Philaenini to the Aphrophorini on the basis of the following characters: (1) crown is short and broad, with a distinct median carina; (2) tylus is very short and broad, about twice as broad as median length; (3) ocelli are nearer to each other than to the eyes; (4) antennal segment three is visible; (5) antennal ledges are thin, foliaceous; (6) face moderately inflated with prominent punctures and a median carina; (7) rostrum long, extending beyond bases of hind legs; (8) pronotum with a median carina, the anterior margin usually distinctly and angularly produced, the anterior lateral margins relatively long; (9) forewings with prominent punctures; and (10) the structures of the male genitalia, especially the very small subgenital plates, the very large styles and the very complex aedeagus.

*Sinophora brunnea* (Lallemand), **NEW COMBINATION**

*Pentacantha brunnea* Lallemand, 1922:65. Holotype ♀, INDIA 'Darjeeling' (BMNH) [examined].

*Pentacanthoides brunneus* (Lallemand); Metcalf, 1952:228; 1962:74.

*Type material.* The holotype female is housed in the Natural History Museum, London. It bears the labels: "India, Darjeeling, Juni, Fruhstorfer leg.; LALLEMAND Coll., Brit. Mus. 1955-832; *Pentacantha brunnea* Lallemand, V. Lallemand determ. 1914." The specimen is in excellent condition.

*Remarks.* Originally described in *Pentacantha*, *brunnea* clearly belongs to *Sinophora* on the basis of its general appearance. This species is still known only from the unique female holotype. It will be necessary to associate a male with this species and study the genitalia to establish the correct status.

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